INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State* **ACTION COPY**

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FROM: NEW YORK

TO: Secretary of State

NO: SECTO 8, SEPTEMBER 19, 2 PM

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY GRC FONMIN SHEH PASSED FOLLOWING INTELLIGENCE RE CHICOM MILITARY PREPARATIONS. HE SAID THAT GRC MILITARY OFFICERS INFORMED HIM ON SEPTEMBER 11 THAT CHICOMS HAVE MOVED ONE "AIR REGIMENT" TO KWEILING WHICH IS THE NEAREST AIRFIELD COMPLEX TO SEA AND WITHIN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT RANGE OF LAOS. FURTHER REPORTED SIGNAL INTERCEPTS FROM MAINLAND INDICATE HEAVY COMMUNICATIONS TRAFFIC AMONG ARMY AND AIR UNITS. THIS SUGGESTED HEAVY TROOP MOVEMENTS DURING MONTH OF AUGUST. GRC INTELLIGENCE REPORTS VAST IMPROVEMENT IN PROFICIENCY OF CHINESE COMMUNIST AIR FLEET PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THEIR ABILITY TO BECOME AIRBORNE ON SHORT NOTICE. SAID SCRAMBLE TIME NOW DOWN TO THREE MINUTES AS COMPARED WITH FIFTEEN OR TWENTY MINUTES DURING 1958 OFFSHORE ISLANDS CRISIS. HE REPORTED CHICOMS HAVE ADOPTED THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF AIRBORNE TACTICAL FIGHTER CONTROL RATHER THAN GROUND TO AIR CONTROLS.

AS MATTER OF GENERAL INTEREST HE REPORTED THAT QUEMOY-MATSU SHELLING FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEKS LIMITED TO PROPAGANDA SHELLS RATHER THAN EXPLOSIVES AND THEME OF PROPAGANDA AGAINST AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS RATHER THAN ANTI-KUOMINTANG. WOULD APPRECIATE CHECK THESE ITEMS WITHIN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY FOR VERIFICATION.

RUSK

ELP/22

793.5/9-1961

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